



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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MEMO

DATE: March 27, 2015

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Spencer Nebel, City Manager

SUBJECT: Status Report for the time period of February 23, 2015 – March 27, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES:

During the past five week period, Angela and I enjoyed a wonderful two week vacation in Ireland. During this time Ted Smith and Mark Miranda filled in as acting City Manager. I appreciate their willingness to capably fill in for me during this period of time. Furthermore, I want to thank Peggy Hawker for putting together a number of agenda reports for the Council meeting that I missed on March 2, and to Cindy Breves for cranking out two agendas while I was gone, and finishing up some work via phone and fax while I was in transit to Ireland. The city is fortunate to have capable, self-sufficient departments that are able to work through most issues without any problems during my absence!

Highlights and activities over the past five weeks include the following:

- I had a very full Monday and Tuesday prior to leaving on vacation, preparing agenda reports for Council meetings on March 2 and March 16, preparing background information for the preliminary budget meeting, and preparing materials for the City Council orientation session with three occurring the week of my return from vacation. Overall we made it through those tasks, and were reasonably prepared for those three meetings that occurred the week of my return.
- In addition to preparing for the meetings, there were a number of budget related issues that I needed to get out so that work could continue on various aspects of the budget during my absence. I appreciate the efforts of Mike Murzynsky and Linda Brown in pulling together many pieces of the budget during this time period.

- Participated in a final VAC Steering Committee meeting the day before I went on vacation. I wanted to work through various issues on the report that was presented to the City Council at the March 16 Council meeting. Overall I believe the plans that were incorporated as part of this report will provide a framework for increasing the viability of the VAC with a long term reduction of direct city support for this facility. I also appreciated Councilor Mark Saelens' role in guiding this effort as a liaison for the City Council.
- Upon my return from vacation, Tim Gross, Steve Rich and I met with WW Construction regarding concerns over the Iler storm sewer construction project. While I was on vacation a decision was made to shut down the Iler Street storm sewer project for several reasons. The issue that brought things to a head was a rock or a clump of dirt that was thrown at our inspector while discussions regarding project concerns were taking place. In addition, there were a number of other construction concerns that had not been satisfactorily address by the contractor. Prior to this time the project was running a bit informally without direct communications being shared back and forth regarding contractor changes and compliance issues with the stats. As a result of our meeting, the contractor presented a plan to bring the project into compliance with the specifications with work resuming after a week-long shut-down period. The contractor has reassigned the employee that was involved with altercation with our inspector. It is in the city's best interest, as well as the contractor's best interest to complete this project under the current contract.
- Met with Barb James to discuss the issue of our employee being struck by a foreign object on the job scene as discussed previously. This matter was turned over to the Police for their review and investigation.
- Barb James, Steve Rich, Jason Malloy, and I met to review issues relating to negotiation with the Police Association.
- Barb James, Steve Rich, Tim Gross, and I met to review position in regards to the Newport Employees Associate negotiations.
- Participated in an hour long interview with Cheryl Haro on her KCUP radio show.
- Held a regular staff meeting.
- Met with Council President Ralph Busby to review the agenda for the March 16 Executive Session/URA Meeting/City Council meeting since Mayor Roumagoux was under the weather.
- Met with Barb James to discuss various personnel issues.
- Richard Dutton and I met with Greg Palser and Matt Updenkelder regarding the components that would be involved in extending fiber to each home in Newport. Over the years CoastCom has built a substantial fiber optic backbone within Newport. Adding fiber to each home would certainly be a very attractive economic tool for the community. Logistically it would probably require some sort of public/private partnership in order to occur. At this point we really need to determine whether this is a feasible initiative to pursue or not.
- Upon my return from vacation, the single biggest issue that I have been working on is various aspects of pulling together a proposed budget for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year. This included a meeting with all the department heads who are proposing capital outlay

projects to discuss the potential of including those in the budget. In addition, Mike Murzynsky, Linda Brown and I met individually with each department head and staff member responsible for portions of the budget to review their budgetary requests for the next fiscal year. These budget meetings consumed a good chunk of the week of March 16th.

- Along with Council President Busby, Councilors Swanson and Sawyer, I participated in the grand opening of the Big Five Store across from City Hall.
- Along with Finance Director, Mike Murzynsky, I presented the budget process and other information to the 2015-16 Budget Committee at the preliminary meeting of that group.
- Met with Mark Miranda to review Police Department issues.
- Met with Rob Murphy to review Fire Department issues.
- Along with members of the City Council, and all City staff participated in ethics training with the Oregon Ethics Commission.
- Along with Steve Rich and Peggy Hawker, participated in the Councilor orientation session, where we rolled out the Council handbook that has been developed for members of the Newport City Council. I think this was a good discussion, and am pleased with the headway we are making in providing good governance for the City of Newport.
- Met with Barb James to discuss various HR issues.
- Met with Steve Rich to review a number of issues that we have been working on together.
- Met with Pat McGuire over concerns about the reuse of a building his brother owns on Hurbert Street, east of Highway 101.
- Along with Councilor Engler, participated in a presentation on the millage issue being proposed by the South District for the construction of the new hospital. I have included information provided at that meeting as an attachment to this packet. Also the group asked to make a presentation before the City Council at the April 20th City Council meeting.
- Barb James, Steve Rich, Tim Gross and I met to review the City's position for the Newport Employees Association negotiations.
- Barb James, Steve Rich, Mark Miranda and I met to discuss the City's position with the Police Employees Association.
- Mike Murzynsky, Linda Brown and I met regarding utility charges for residential fire lines that were inadvertently charged to three properties. We have authorized a refund to the property owners of these charges that were inadvertently included on their water bills.
- Met with Melissa Roman on various transitional issues regarding the projects that she has been working on at the Newport Municipal Airport.
- Met with Lance Vanderbeck on various Airport issues.
- Participated in union negotiations with Steve Rich, Barb James and Mark Miranda.
- Participated in union negotiations with the Newport Employees Association, which included Steve Rich, Barb James and Tim Gross.
- Mike Murzynsky and I met with Rob Murphy on the Request for Proposals for the new fire engine. This is about ready to be advertised.
- Jim Protiva and Tim Gross met with Mike Murzynsky and me to review the latest engineer's estimate for the pool project. As the design is getting completed, there has

been some creep upward in costs. This may change prior to the final engineer's estimate. We are developing some deductible alternates in the bidding process to give the City Council an opportunity to reduce certain elements if the bid costs end up exceeding the revenues available for this project. We will provide a further update to the City Council in the next month.

- Mayor Roumagoux and I participated in a Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation meeting. The topics of conversation including a major contribution from YBEF to Oregon State University for the Marine Studies Campus. YBEF believed a significant contribution to this project will show broad-based community support for a project that will have a huge impact on this community for generations in the future. In addition, YBEF heard a report from Kevin Greenwood on the Port of Newport being on the short list for potentially housing two fast response vessels in conjunction with the NOAA facility on Yaquina Bay. The Port is coordinating a response back to the US Coast Guard on its support for pursuing this project. The single biggest player for making this happen here will be NOAA in its ability to facilitate these vessels. Finally, there was a presentation on the upcoming millage for the construction of the hospital bond. As I indicated earlier, I have attached information regarding this issue for your review.
- Met with Mark Miranda on various departmental issues.
- Met with Rob Murphy to discuss Fire Department issues and to follow up with final issues regarding the RFP for the purchase of a new fire truck.
- Met with a group of developers interested in acquiring property for the construction of 100 units of vacation rental property to be part of a new subdivision in the City of Newport. At a staff level, we will be following up on several issues that were raised in this meeting. The developers are from Atlanta, Georgia, and are currently doing fact finding to determine whether want to proceed with this type of project on property within the City of Newport. I will keep you informed as to any future developments with this matter.
- On Thursday afternoon (March 26th), I was out of the office taking care of some personal business in Salem.
- On Friday, March 27th, worked at home on the budget.
- As I have indicated to you earlier, we have been doing some research on the issue of fluoride being added to the City's water system. A quick rundown on the history of this issue is that in 1960 an advisory vote was taken with the voters supporting the addition of fluoride to the City's water system for the prevention of cavities in children. As the Council was taking actions to implement adding fluoride, a citizen's petition was filed in order to have an election on the City Council's actions to add fluoride to the City's water supply. The election to reverse the addition of fluoride to the water was not successful. As a result, the Council then proceeded with adding fluoride to the City's water system. In about 2005, the City made an administrative decision not to continue adding fluoride to the water due to the failure of the equipment. I am speculating part of the reason not to proceed with the purchase of this new equipment was that the City had started to consider the replacement of the Water Plant. When the Water Plant was initially designed, it was intended to resume fluoride being added to the City's drinking water. As a result of the project being essentially over budget, this equipment was cut from the

project (along with many other pieces of equipment). In reviewing the issue, it appears that was an administrative decision not necessarily a decision of the Council. We are continuing to research some of the background on this issue, and anticipate providing a report to the City Council at a future Council meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

For the next three weeks most of my time will be designated towards the proposed budget for the 2015-16 Fiscal year. I will be working out of the office a number of days during this time period in order to get the work done that is necessary for developing the proposed budget for the Budget Committee's review. We have targeted April 20th for distribution of the budget.

- Wednesday, April 29, 2015, First Budget Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, May 13, 2015, Second Budget Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, May 20, 2015, Third Budget Committee Meeting
- Monday, June 15, 2015, Budget Public Hearing
- September 24-26, 2015, the 90th annual League of Oregon Cities Conference will be held at the River House Hotel and Convention Center, Bend. While this is a ways down the road, it is important for you to get this on your calendars if you are considering attending. Furthermore, we would like to know prior to the registration time who would be interested in attending this year's conference. Please let Peggy know if you are considering attending the Fall Conference this September. There is always a challenge of getting rooms in the conference hotel. If we have our plans in place and we know how many rooms to book well ahead of time, then we can strike as soon as the registration period opens up.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attached is a communication from Tim Gross to WW Construction, Inc., authorizing the N.E. 7th & Iler Storm Sewer Repair Project to resume.
- Attached is a letter from Police Chief, Mark Miranda, regarding concerns expressed as to how the Police handled a business license renewal. The business owner indicated that the renewal notice went to an old address and the City sent two Police officers to collect the business license, including paying for Officer Kittle to come all the way from Nicaragua for the purpose of dealing with this issue. The Chief indicated that all of Officer Kittel's travel was paid for by Officer Kittel, and that Officer Kittel was committed to help train his replacement; and the reason two officers showed up at this particular business was that it was occurring during a time that Officer Kittel was training his replacement.
- Attached is a question and answer sheet that has been prepared by the Pacific Communities Health District in regards to the General Obligation Bond that voters will be considering in May.

- Attached is a card to the Mayor thanking her for taking the time to meet with the Oregon Coast Aquarium consultants coordinating their strategic planning
- Attached is an article that Don Davis dropped off regarding the value of viewing ravines as part of the City's storm water system. The article proposes including these natural drainage corridors as part of an asset management approach. Typically natural water courses are substantially cheaper than underground utilities. However, they need to be reviewed and maintained from time to time to assure that they are continuing to provide the storm water drainage in a safe and effective manner.
- Attached is an article that my former city was named by the "Washington Post" as the snowiest location in the United States. The article indicates that as of March 21st, 158.7 inches of snow has fallen in Sault Ste. Marie. The article references the all-time snow fall record, which occurred during the 1995-96 winter when 222 inches fell in Sault Ste. Marine. That was an exciting year for me as City Manager particularly since the city received nearly 70 inches of snow in one four day storm. As I read this article I continue to thank the Mayor and City Councilors of the City of Newport for dramatically changing my winter experience! I hope everyone is enjoying spring!

Respectfully submitted,



Spencer R. Nebel, City Manager
Newport, Oregon

169 SW COAST HWY
NEWPORT, OREGON 97365

COAST GUARD CITY, USA



www.thecityofnewport.net

MOMBETSU, JAPAN, SISTER CITY

March 20, 2015

WW Construction, Inc.
Attn: Dave Wheeler
7945 NE Avery Street
PO Box 1150
Newport, OR 97365

RE: NE 7th & Iler Storm Sewer Repair
Resumption of work

Thank you for your letter and attachment dated March 17, 2015 describing your plan for addressing the defaults identified in the letter from the City dated March 6, 2015. You may resume work on the project at your earliest convenience.

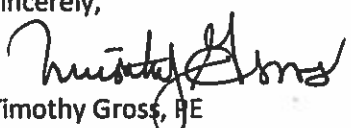
From this point forward, Olaf Sweetman will be the Project Representative and primary point of contact on this project. Please direct any project questions and correspondence to his attention.

The City would like to have weekly construction meetings beginning next week through the duration of the project. The agenda for these meetings will include projected construction schedule, RFI questions and discussion, safety, and other items as necessary. Notes will be taken at these meetings by the Project Representative. The project meetings are tentatively scheduled for 11 a.m. on Mondays at the project site, beginning this Monday, March 23rd, 2015. Please let Olaf know if this schedule work for you.

The RFI's presented with your letters will be discussed at the first project meeting and will be responded to formally in writing.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Timothy Gross, PE
Director of Public Works/City Engineer
t.gross@newportoregon.gov
P| 541-574-3369
F| 541-265-3301

CC: Olaf Sweetman, Assistant City Engineer
Spencer Nebel, City Manager
Steven Rich, City Attorney

EST.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 2260
NEWPORT, OREGON 97365-0167

COAST GUARD CITY, USA



 COPY

169 SW COAST HWY
541.574.3348
www.newportpolice.net

MOMBETSU, JAPAN, SISTER CITY

March 4, 2015

Susan Spencer
Bridie's Irish Faire
715 NW 3rd Street
Newport, Oregon 97365

Dear Susan,

I'm sorry that your contact with our officers did not meet your expectations. Upon looking into the situation, I determined that the officers were acting appropriately and within the law.

I would like to address a couple of points you made in your letter. The Post Office is usually good at forwarding letters when someone moves. They will also return letters to sender after about a year, but the forwarding address is not always attached. The Oregon DMV has the same issue when sending out vehicle or driver license renewals. Oregon law does say that each owner or driver is responsible to make sure that their registration or license are renewed on time. DMV sends out renewal notices as a courtesy, but is not required to do so. The City of Newport adheres to the same process. The business owner is responsible for ensuring that their business license is renewed annually and to notify the City of any address changes.

You also raised a concern about the City paying for Ofcr. Kittel's travels between here and Nicaragua. Ofcr. Kittel resigned from the Department last year to move to Nicaragua. He had a self-imposed commitment to make sure that he be able to train his replacement, which he volunteered to travel here from Nicaragua at his own expense. No City funds were expended for his travels.

Warnings are given to those individuals who are first time offenders, if appropriate. In your case, Ofcr. Kittel has had to visit you in the past because your business license had not been renewed within a timely manner. It did look like the Municipal Court allowed diversion in your case since you promptly did renew your business license.

The Police Department strives to be supportive of Newport businesses, but we still have responsibility to enforce City ordinance and regulations. I appreciate your letter because it

EST.

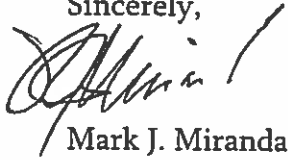
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Ms. Spencer
March 4, 2015
Page 2

has allowed me to clear up any misunderstandings and to provide you with information about the City processes.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Miranda", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Mark J. Miranda
Chief of Police
(FBINA 198)

Cc: Mayor Roumagoux
City Manager Nebel
Finance Director Murzynsky

Pacific Communities Health District General Obligation Bond Authorization for Hospital Measure 21-163

Q: How will a bond measure benefit patients?

A: The Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital has no room for growth and needs to be updated to current seismic, ADA and energy efficiency standards – making it safer for patients. It can't house any additional services, making it difficult to add physicians or treatments to meet the diverse health needs of the community. Already patients are experiencing long wait times and are challenged to find a new doctor. The original hospital is more than 60 years old and the physical plant is such that new health care technologies cannot be installed, resulting in patients not receiving the most advanced care they can possibly get.

Q: What does the bond measure include and when is the election?

In the May 19 election, you will be asked if the the Pacific Communities Health District (District) shall issue 20-year general obligation bonds not exceeding \$57 million for new and updated hospital facilities.

Q: Who is the District?

A: A taxing authority with a five-member elected board that was organized in 1972 as a special district under Chapter 440, Oregon Revised Statutes. The District was established to provide health care to residents along the coast from the middle of Lincoln Beach to Yachats. A portion of the property taxes paid in those communities are administered by the District, which owns the hospital buildings and land.

Q: How much will it cost me?

A: The levy is for no more than 0.98 cents per \$1,000 of property assessed value, providing approximately \$57 million in funding. For the owner of property with an assessed value of \$150,000, this bond measure equals an additional \$147 annually.

Q: How will the money be used?

A: If approved, this measure would finance capital costs to: construct a modern hospital building to provide inpatient and outpatient services; construct modern offices to accommodate additional specialty and primary care physicians, more clinical services and additional imaging and treatment capabilities; remodel and update existing buildings to provide additional and improved clinical and support functions and to comply with ADA, seismic, and safety standards; and make other site improvements, including demolition of older structures, and improve parking.

Q: Why is this cost paid by the community? Doesn't Samaritan Health Services pay anything?

A: The buildings are a public asset, owned and overseen by the District. Facility additions are funded by the District. Samaritan Health Services pays for the equipment used in patient care. Since 2002, Samaritan has funded more than \$11 million in equipment and has budgeted \$10 million to equip the new structure.

Q: Why did you build the Center for Health Education on Hwy. 101 instead of a new hospital?

A: The Center for Health Education is a \$2.8 million building and the hospital project will be \$57 million. The Pacific Communities Health District Foundation and District are paying for the Center for Health Education without a bond measure. Because the focus of health care reform is on prevention and chronic condition management, new hospital campuses are now including centers for health education. Therefore, we are ahead of the curve and will not have to include one in the bond measure.

Q: How can I help?

A: Neighbors for a New Hospital, a citizen-led political action committee, has been organized to help inform voters about the need for additional funding for the hospital campus, and to encourage support of the bond measure. Their website www.NeighborsForNewHospital.org will be live by March 30. You can make a financial contribution, write a supportive letter to the editor, invite a member of our committee to speak to your club or organization, agree to lend your name to a newspaper ad in support of the effort, be sure you are registered to vote (register or confirm at www.co.lincoln.or.us/clerk), and vote "YES" on May 19.

Sandy -



3.10.15

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with our strategic planning consultant. I am so excited for this project and eager to see the road map for our next few years! What a busy and thrilling time to be in Lincoln County.

I so appreciate all you do for Newport and your support of the Aquarium means the world to me.

As always, it is great seeing you - I think you are just fabulous. Let me know if you ever need anything.

Best, Carrie

APWA REPORTER

Realizing the value of natural systems

*An asset management approach
(see page 40)*



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Realizing the value of natural systems: an asset management approach

Andrew K. Smith, P.E., CFM, Env SP
Senior Water Resources Manager
Black & Veatch
Kansas City, Missouri

Understanding the stability, health, and engineered utility impacts on stream reaches like this one in St. Peters, Missouri, yields many benefits for stakeholders. (Photo credit: Black & Veatch)

The burgeoning field of asset management has, to this point, primarily focused on engineered infrastructure. Asset management typically includes a geographically based inventory, a preliminary condition assessment, and capital improvement/maintenance planning. Approaching the management of *natural* systems—waterways, ponds, lakes, wetlands, and other systems that transport

and treat water in the natural environment—from a similar perspective can provide significant and profound benefits to a multitude of stakeholders. Including natural systems in comprehensive asset management programs enables the stewards of these resources to better manage and promote natural systems as valuable amenities that yield many economic and environmental benefits.



The reality is that many natural systems are engineered to one degree or another. Engineers have certainly had a hand in creating lakes by damming up rivers and diverting rivers and streams for water supply, energy production, flood control, and development. Human activity has adversely affected the quality and flow of water even in waterways and water bodies that are otherwise undisturbed. The focus now is to understand and take advantage of how natural systems manage water as originally intended by nature. Ironically, that often requires further human intervention; an asset management approach can help municipalities manage those interventions as efficiently as possible.

There is also room for increased application of asset management to green infrastructure. Green infrastructure comprises stormwater management systems that incorporate soils, vegetation, and natural processes that mimic nature by reducing flows into conveyance and treatment systems. Although bioswales, constructed wetlands, and detention facilities are engineered, the points raised in this article also apply to green infrastructure owned by cities and counties. For example, lakes or detention ponds in public parks are also assets that require condition assessment and proactive planning for effective and efficient maintenance.

The value of an asset management approach to engineered infrastructure is clear, especially when assets are underground and thus expensive to repair and maintain. Failures in the system can be catastrophic. Water and public works managers who understand the condition of and proactively manage such community assets are able to more judiciously assign capital improvement and



The author investigates a utility conflict with a dry stream bed; the problem was identified through the asset management process. (Photo credit: Black & Veatch)

maintenance funds, improve service to users, better align with regulatory requirements, and more clearly communicate fiscal requirements to stakeholders.

The same value propositions apply to natural systems. Although natural systems are typically more accessible than buried infrastructure, the fact remains that unless natural systems can be viewed from a road or are located in a public space such as a park, they—and potential problems—tend to go unnoticed. These systems can also be expensive to maintain and repair, and doing so typically entails more regulatory compliance activity than that required for maintenance and repair of buried infrastructure. Even small failures in the natural system can impact regulatory compliance, while catastrophic failures can endanger property or human life.

Natural systems must clear a higher bar than simply transporting water from one place to another. As part of the ecosystem, these systems

have habitat and recreation roles in addition to water conveyance and treatment jobs. This introduces an entirely new field of stakeholders and level of responsibility for managers.

Traveled terrain

It's one thing to admit that understanding of the natural systems within a particular service area is often undervalued and underdeveloped. It's more difficult to figure out the next step, especially in new territory. How do managers develop and apply an understanding of natural systems to best leverage natural, human, and financial resources? One approach is exemplified by the city of St. Peters, Missouri, a community of approximately 55,000 in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. Using APWA-based ranking systems, hydrologic and hydraulic models, and geographic information systems (GIS), the city and its consulting team (Black & Veatch and Vireo) developed an asset management program and conducted a condition assessment for the city's natural systems.

The effort began with a thorough assessment of the city's 47 miles of stream corridor. A team of professionals, including a city representative, a water resources engineer, and an ecologist physically inspected the city's natural open channels. The team members walked in the stream where possible or along the bank. They used GPS units to create data points that included physical information for each representative stream section. Collected information included channel geometry, bank slope stability, and erosion/deposition as well as ecological information indicating habitat extent and health. Geo-referenced photographs were shot at each information point for future reference. The information gathered at each point allowed the team to create a rating for each reach of stream corridor.

This detailed inspection allowed the team not only to observe the overall condition of the waterways but also to locate specific instances of bank failure, compromised utility infrastructure, and instances where the natural system was being adversely impacted by one or more stakeholders. Conducting this inspection from roadways or via remote sensing (aerials) cannot fully supply the information necessary for this crucial step in the process. The team also inspected 75 of the largest ponds and detention basins throughout St. Peters and described them for inclusion in hydrologic and water quality models.

The condition assessment information was incorporated in a GIS system that became the hub for future activities. The ratings assigned to each reach yielded a comprehensive view of the health and stability of the city's

waterways. The first point of order is to evaluate the problem areas where stream rankings are low and to address them to the fullest extent possible. But the assessment also enabled the city to identify high-ranking reaches to target for future conservation efforts.

The project team also completed traditional modeling of the hydrologic and hydraulic performance of detention basins and waterways in the system. St. Peters was able to overlay this information with the condition assessment of its natural system, yielding a comprehensive understanding of municipal assets. This foundation allows the city to identify the potential impact of improvements and opportunities to solve more than one problem through a single project.

The consulting team developed a comprehensive list of prioritized projects for the city that included opinions of probable cost. The team maximized efficiency by developing the project parameters and costs within GIS using data collected in the field. Once the project list was developed, city staff launched a public-education campaign to engage stakeholders on stormwater and water quality issues. This eventually led to passage of a funding mechanism for the city to perform capital improvement projects to address erosion, pollution, and flooding issues and meet federal regulations.

Taking resource management into the future

Best practices for public works managers continue to evolve. Today we typically measure progress by how well we serve future generations as well as current citizens—and we do that by effectively managing assets.

Just as the best stormwater control strategies consider both gray and green solutions, effective management of both natural and engineered systems provides triple-bottom-line sustainability.

Managers who have documented and evaluated their entire system find benefit in being able to:

- understand interactions between engineered and natural systems, where there are often opportunities for conflict or impairment;
- quickly develop capital improvement plans that include *visible* improvements to benefit stakeholders and the environment;
- better plan development/redevelopment within their service area;
- convey the value of these systems to elected officials and residents; and
- efficiently manage the funds already available to them or, in some cases, use assessment information to help develop new funding sources.

Municipalities often have a limited understanding of the condition and value of their natural systems despite the fact that these systems perform vital functions for residents on a daily basis. Asset management for natural systems provides a lens through which to view these resources as both important infrastructure and economically, environmentally, and socially beneficial community amenities.

Andrew Smith can be reached at (913) 458-3043 or smitha@bv.com.

**Sault Ste. Marie
Evening News**

March 24, 2015 12:45PM

[Print Page](#)**Sault Ste. Marie is the 'snowiest' in the nation**

A Washington Post story on Monday has put the City of Sault Ste. Marie in the national spotlight as the snowiest location in the United States.

At 158.7 inches as of March 21, the Sault narrowly edged out Marquette with 157 inches for first place. Maine had the next two entries — Bangor at 131.5 inches and Caribou at 129.4 inches — while cities in New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania were also represented in the top 10.

Meteorologist Mike Boguth of the National Weather Service in Gaylord said there were other areas of the Upper Peninsula where more snow may have fallen, but they are not official data recording sites.

Boguth attributed the large 2014-15 accumulation to a snowy November where more than 65 inches fell on Sault Ste. Marie.

He also expressed confidence that the Sault will continue to build on that total.

"You guys might see a couple more inches late tonight and early tomorrow," he said eyeing the forecast shortly after 8 a.m. today.

Boguth also added that longer-term projections point to a couple more chances for additional snowfall in the coming weeks.

Despite being the snowiest non-mountain data collection site in the United States, the Sault will likely fall well short of its all-time record recorded in during the 1995-96 winter when 222 inches piled-up.

"I don't think you'll hit that," Boguth concluded. "If you do you'll have some major issues."



PHOTO / ANGELA KIPLING / THE EVENING NEWS

A Washington Post story on Monday has put the City of Sault Ste. Marie in the national spotlight as the snowiest location in the United States. This November 14, 2014 file photo shows a community member walking in downtown Sault Ste Marie during the first snowstorm of the 2014-15 winter season.

<http://www.sooeveningnews.com/article/20150324/NEWS/150329540>

[Print Page](#)

